IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-15 and substitute therefor new Claims 31-38. Note that original Claims 16-30 have already been canceled in response to a restriction requirement.

31. (New) A method for the qualitative and/or quantitative detection of a ribosome inactivating protein, comprising:

contacting a sample suspected of containing a ribosome inactivating protein having N-glycosidase activity with an oligonucleotide substrate having a GA_xGA tetraloop wherein "A_x" is a nucleoside comprising an adenine analog 2-aminopurine; and

detecting the presence of the adenine analog thereof released from "A_x" of said tetraloop as an indication of the presence of the ribosome inactivating protein in the sample.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the adenine analog 2-aminopurine is capable of immediately emitting fluorescence when released from said tetraloop.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the oligonucleotide substrate comprises 2'-O-methylated nucleosides.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the 2'-O-methylated oligonucleotide substrate is attached to a solid support.

35. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the GA_xGA tetraloop comprises deoxyribonucleosides.

36. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the "A_x" of the GA_xGA tetraloop comprises a deoxyribonucleoside.

37. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the solid support is Sepharose.

38. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising detecting the presence of the fluorescent adenine analog base 2-aminopurine of "A_x" using fluorescence spectrometry.